



## GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

MAY 28, 2002



**New Hours-of-Service Rules Concern Grain Truckers.** The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) proposed new motor carrier regulations would reduce the total number of hours behind the wheel for grain and other agricultural truckers. Grain haulers want the flexibility to drive longer hours during harvest season and move agricultural commodities in a timely manner. Trucks are the primary transportation mode for agricultural products. Trucks haul over 50 percent of total grain and oilseeds moved in the United States as compared to other modes. At least some components of new [hours-of-service](#) regulations are expected to be issued this year. (USDA, Transportation Services, John Batson, [John.Batson@usda.gov](mailto:John.Batson@usda.gov))

**Rail Export Traffic Steady.** Although total U.S. grain car loadings are [down](#) slightly by 3 percent, rail deliveries to port have remained about the same [as](#) for this time last year. Last year, railroads delivered over 22.4 million tons to export elevators, 84 percent of which went to the Texas Gulf and the Pacific Northwest. Railroads report current costs [of](#) about \$23 per ton to ship grain by unit train from Minneapolis to the Gulf and about \$45 per ton for shipments to Pacific elevators. At this time last year, it cost about \$35 [per ton](#) to ship grain to Minneapolis; [rates](#) to Houston are about the same as last year. These rates are based on public tariffs posted by railroads; shippers are usually able to contract for lower rates. (USDA, Transportation Services, Marvin Prater, [Marvin.Prater@usda.gov](mailto:Marvin.Prater@usda.gov))

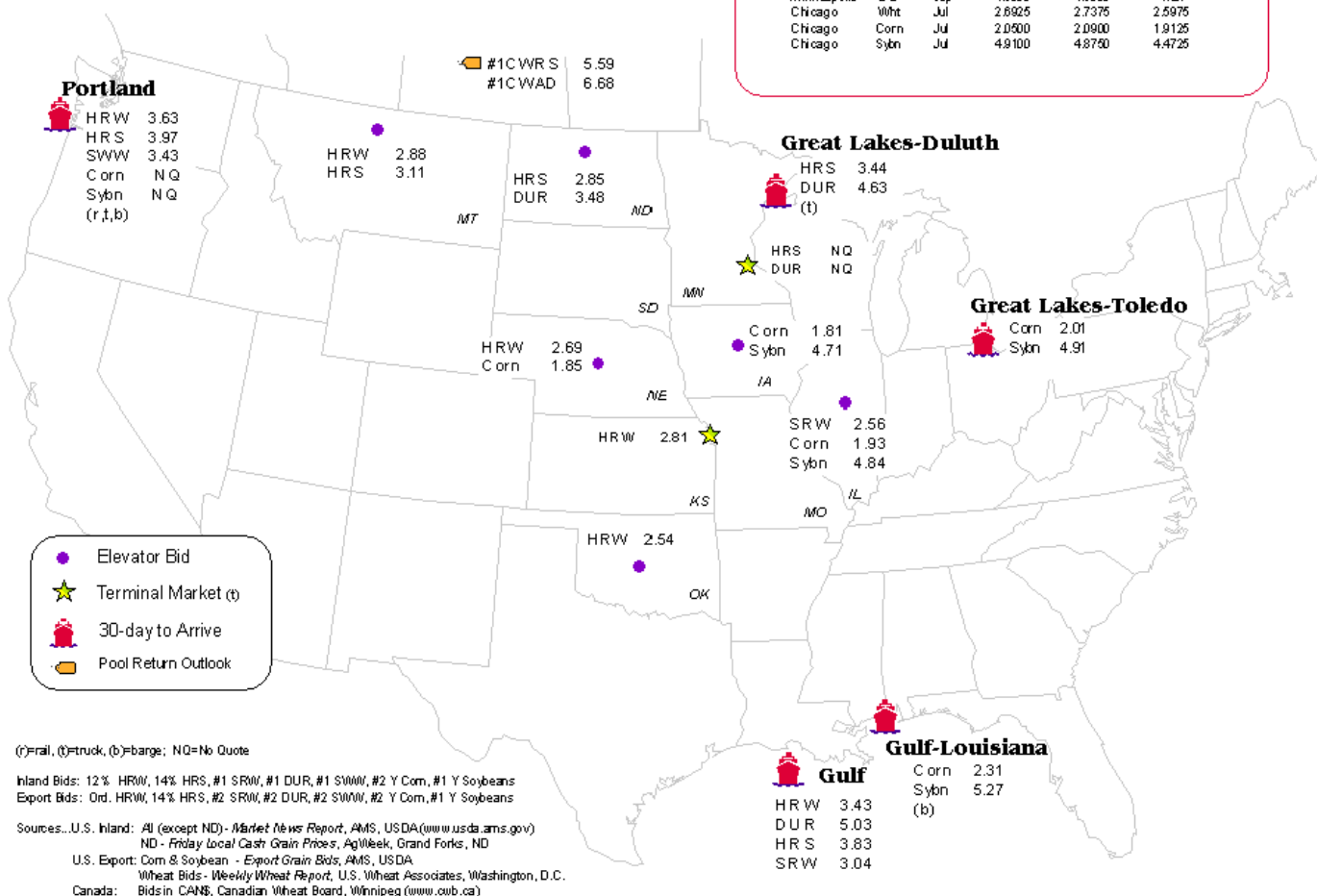
**Missouri River Plans Stir Controversy.** Proposed changes in water control procedures on the Missouri

River may reduce navigation on the Missouri River and impact flows on the Mississippi River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed six alternate operating plans and is scheduled to announce the preferred plan by May 31. The selection of a preferred plan may be delayed by South Dakota Governor Bill Janklow, who is suing the Corps for mismanagement of Missouri River reservoir water releases. Governor Janklow claims that the Corps is favoring navigation on the lower Missouri River rather than promoting upstream fishing and recreation. The lawsuit is pending in Federal court. (USDA, Transportation Services, Jim Caron, [Jim.Caron@usda.gov](mailto:Jim.Caron@usda.gov))

**Out of Service Elevator Continues to Increase Transport Costs for Maryland Soybean Producers.** In June 2001 at the Port of Baltimore, a ship heavily damaged a pier connecting an 80-year-old grain elevator to cargo ships, which resulted in the elevator's closure. Before the closure, grain shipments accounted for almost 20 percent of the port's exports. Since the closure, Maryland soybean farmers have had to pay an additional 20 to 25 cents per bushel to truck their soybeans to Norfolk, VA, or other ports, rather than to Baltimore. The loss of the port elevator will force farmers in western and southern Maryland to ship soybeans longer distances, resulting in lower earnings, according to the executive director for the Maryland Grain Producers Association. The closing of the elevator is a serious concern, which cost central Maryland farmers about \$4.4 million last year, the director reported. (Baltimore Sun 5/4/02, [www.americanfarm.com](http://www.americanfarm.com) 2/5/02)

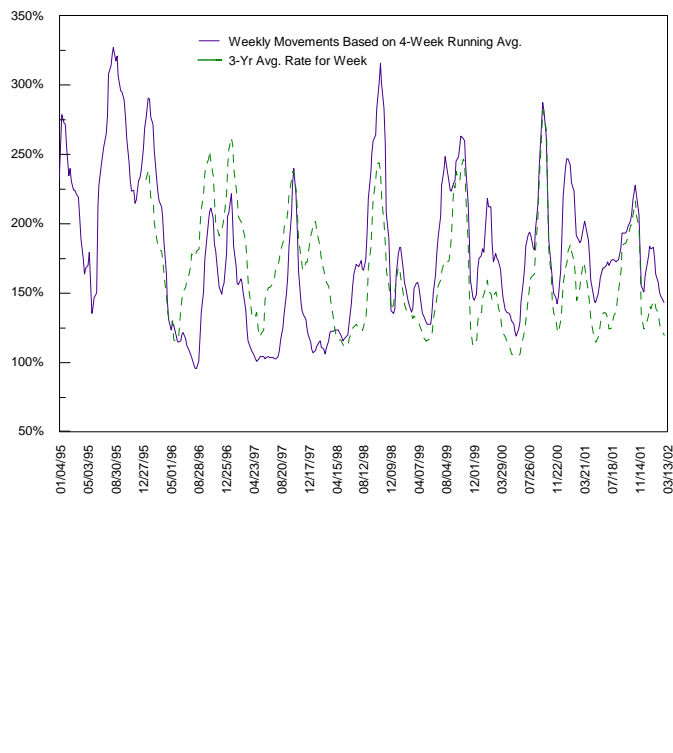
## Grain Bid Summary

Futures:				05/24/2002	Week Ago 05/17/2002	Year Ago 05/25/2001
Kansas City	Wht	Jul		2.8075	2.8175	3.1400
Minneapolis	Wht	Jul		2.9375	2.9275	3.2375
Minneapolis	Dur	Sep		4.5000	4.5000	n.a.
Chicago	Wht	Jul		2.6925	2.7375	2.5975
Chicago	Corn	Jul		2.0900	2.0900	1.9125
Chicago	Sybn	Jul		4.9100	4.8750	4.4725

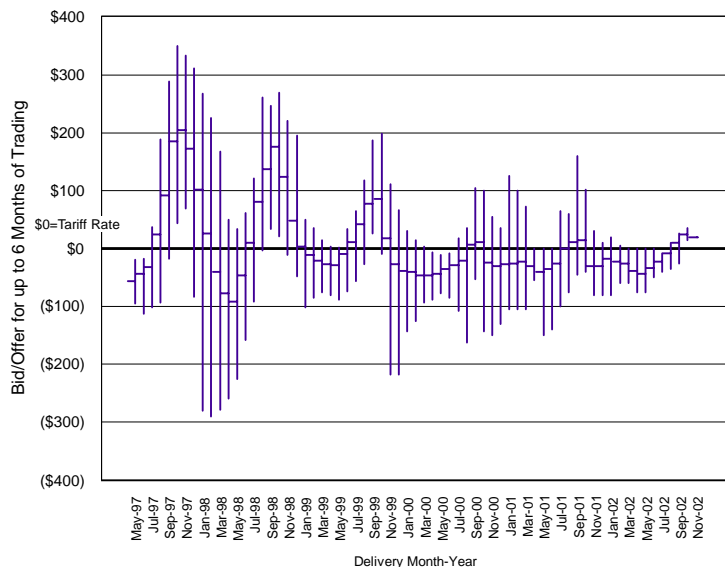


## Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate



## Secondary Rail Market Bids



**Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings**

Delivery for:	Jul-02		Aug-02	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	12,966	3%	12,966	16%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	8%	5,400	0%

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com

**Secondary Rail Car Market**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	<b>Delivery Period</b>			
	Jun-02	Jul-02	Aug-02	Sep-02
BNSF-GF	\$(3)	\$(5)	\$8	\$24
UP-Pool	\$(4)	\$(5)	\$9	\$25

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;  
 GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange,  
 Pool=Guaranteed Pool

*note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted*

**Railroad Car 'Auction' Results**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Jul-02	Aug-02	Sep-02
COT/N. Grain	no bid	no bid	\$0
COT/S. Grain	no bid	no bid	\$0
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no offer	no offer

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com),  
 (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal/Cash Basis Values**

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

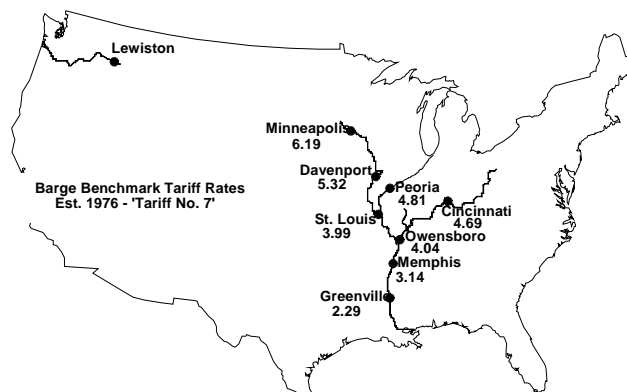
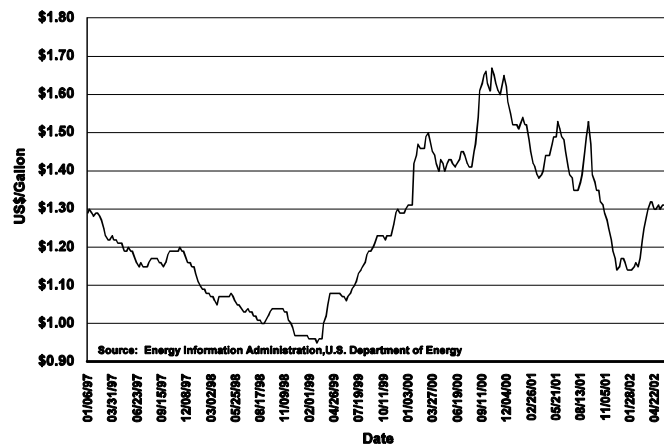
Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	<b>Rate</b>	
			Futures	Cash
05/24/02	St. Louis	May	0	105
		Jul	0	125
		Sep	0	183
		Nov	0	160
		Jan	0	
	Illinois River	May	0	135
		Jul	0	150
		Sep	0	200
		Nov	0	175
		Jan	0	

Source: St. Louis Merchants Exchange

**Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates**

	5/22/02	5/15/02	Jun '02	Aug '02
Twin Cities	181	180	187	208
Mid-Mississippi	157	156	158	185
Illinois River	148	146	148	174
St. Louis	110	111	110	157
Lower Ohio	116	119	120	167
Cairo-Memphis	101	100	105	155

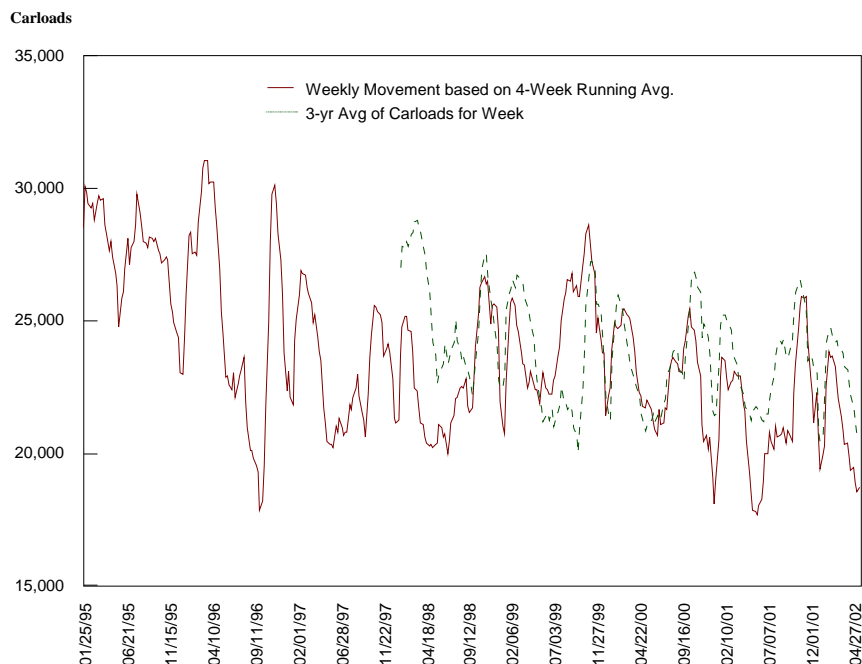
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA  
 nq=no quote;

**Weekly Retail Diesel (Road) Prices (Including Taxes)**

## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
5/4/02	18,338
05/11/02	17,936
05/18/02	18,919
Year to Date - 2002	419,025
Year to Date - 2001	430,702
Total 2001	1,117,601
Total 2000	1,188,917

Source: Association of American Railroads



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Grain Carloads Originated

	East		West			Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
05/04/02	2747	2,857	6,455	412	6,448	4,667	3,302
This Week Last Year	2,837	3,003	5,064	439	6,818	5,070	4,117
2002 YTD	58,104	63,668	147,580	11,760	133,758	81,966	72,785
2001 YTD	62,796	62,324	163,524	9,149	132,909	96,454	90,395
2001 Total	151,864	163,018	428,603	26,330	347,156	254,982	232,461
2000 Total	147,708	153,905	425,849	26,515	364,785	160,749	239,670

Source: Association of American Railroads

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

March 2002

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
05/06/02	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$22.60	\$0.62
05/06/02	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,877	\$42.74	\$1.16
05/06/02	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,650	\$18.19	\$0.50
05/06/02	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,347	\$47.92	\$1.30
05/06/02	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,005	\$44.15	\$1.20
05/06/02	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
05/06/02	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,700	\$29.76	\$0.76
05/06/02	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
05/06/02	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
05/06/02	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

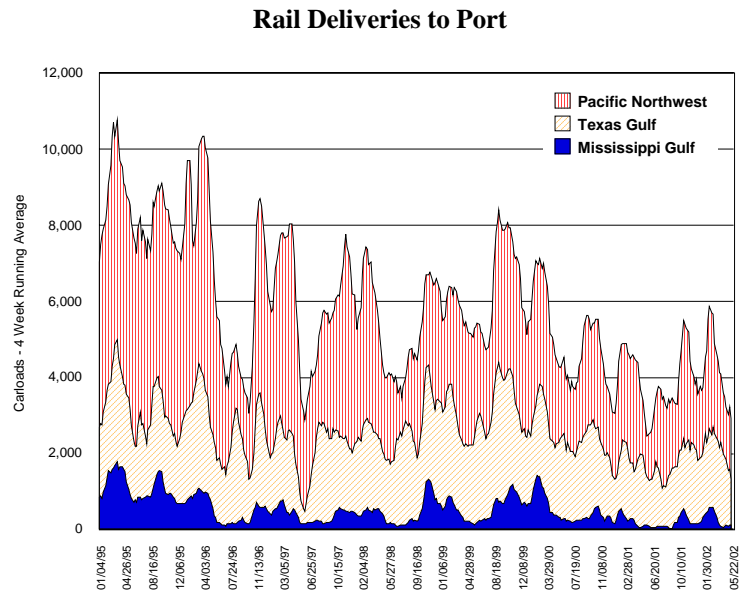
Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

**Rail Deliveries to Port****Carloads**

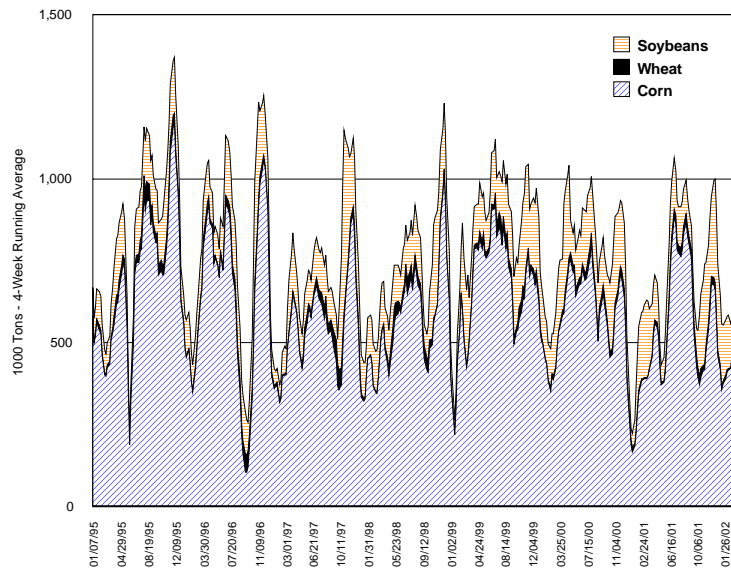
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
04/10/02	66*	2,530	1,127	275
04/17/02	51*	1,005	1,196	18
04/24/02	252*	1,955	1,876	31
05/01/02	41*	1,513	1,276	557
05/08/02	45*	1,362*	1,639	313
05/15/02	173*	1,000*	1,903	316
YTD 2002	5,375*	35,686*	40,443	10,141
YTD 2001	4,703	30,481	44,668	12,806
Total 2001	10,022	81,804	111,376	26,604
Total 2000	25,767	104,473	128,414	14,816

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA



(\*) Incomplete Data

(\*\*) Identical figures are correct

**Barge Movements - Locks 27****Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 5/18/02

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	304	5	50	359
Winfield, MO (L25)	344	22	60	426
Alton, IL (L26)	452	11	85	549
Granite City, IL (L27)	465	11	85	561
Illinois River (L8)	87	2	17	105
Ohio (L52)	40	0	19	71
Arkansas (L1)	0	13	1	14
2002 YTD	12,788	843	4,131	18,486
2001 YTD	9,781	713	3,773	15,105
Total 2001	31,878	2,679	10,616	47,091
Total 2000	33,482	2,518	10,327	48,247

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; L15 &amp; L25 closed for winter.

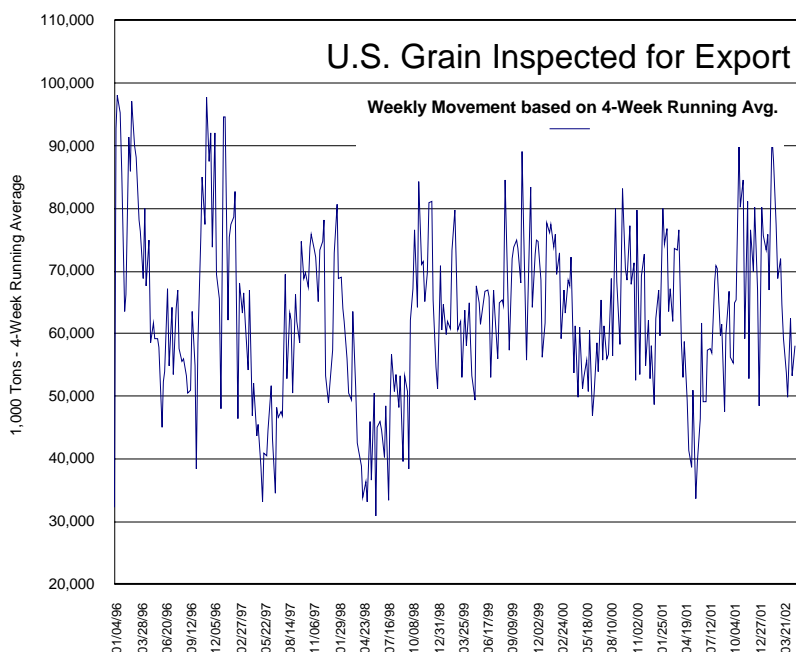
**U.S. Export Balances** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	Wheat <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	Corn	Soybean	Total
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
05/16/02	1,183	594	824	432	96	3,128	7,150	3,089	13,367
This Week Year Ago	683	180	514	369	150	1,896	6,187	2,083	10,166
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
01/02 YTD	8,403	5,389	5,351	3,044	1,108	23,294	32,621	25,202	81,117
00/01 YTD	8,943	4,389	5,508	4,945	1,118	24,902	32,519	17,713	75,134
99/00 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
98/99 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date ([www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov)) Crop Year:Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

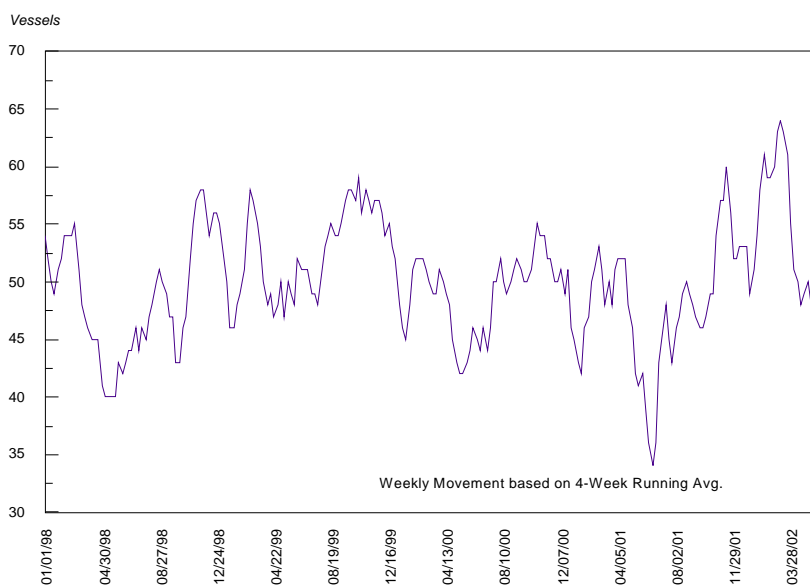
	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
05/23/02	165	0	61	60	1,014	159	81	0	5
2002 YTD	3,209	1,828	1,028	2,259	13,979	8,028	2,379	111	782
2001 YTD	3,896	1,694	1,190	2,144	12,002	7,337	2,092	164	731
% of Last Year	32%	30%	60%	33%	40%	45%	34%	24%	78%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service YTD-Year-to-Date

**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**  
1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 05/09/02			
Vancouver	5,200	342	436
Prince Rupert	1,079		
Prairie Direct	1,100	345	335
Thunder Bay	501	263	87
St. Lawrence	2,202	1,820	0
2001 YTD Exports	10,082	2,770	868
2000 YTD Exports	10,734	2,820	1,655
% of Last Year	94%	98%	52%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission, Crop year 8/1-7/31



**Gulf Region  
Vessels Loaded  
- Past 7 Days-**

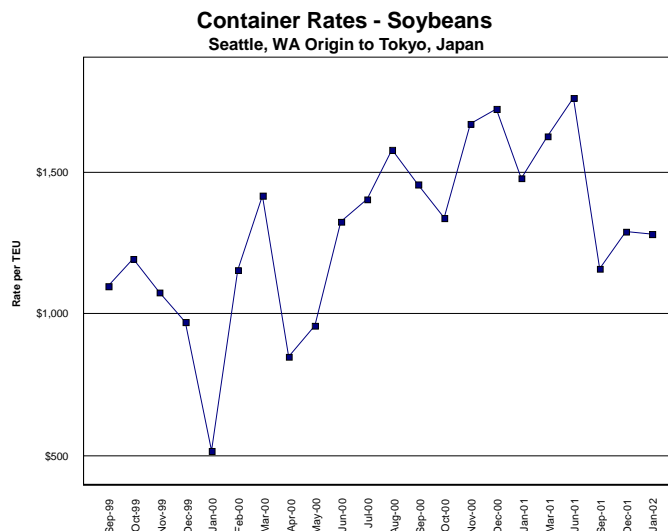
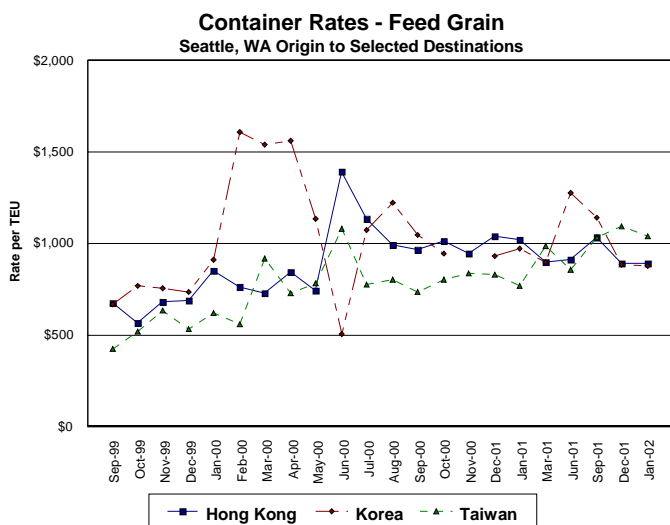
### Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	In Port	Loaded 7-Days	Due Next 10-Days	In Port	Loaded 7-Days	Due Next 10-Days	In Port	Loaded 7-Days	Due Next 10-Days
05/16/02	30	50	69	4			9	6	1
05/23/02	32	47	54	6			8	4	6
2001 Range	(13..65)	(28..64)	(46..81)	(1..18)			(4..20)	(3..14)	(0..7)
2000 Range	(23..50)	(34..57)	(47..83)	(4..15)			(4..20)	(5..19)	(0..9)
2001 Avg	36	48	63				12	8	3
2000 Avg	36	49	65				11	9	3
1999 Avg	32	52	65				10	9	3

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

### Container Ocean Freight Rates

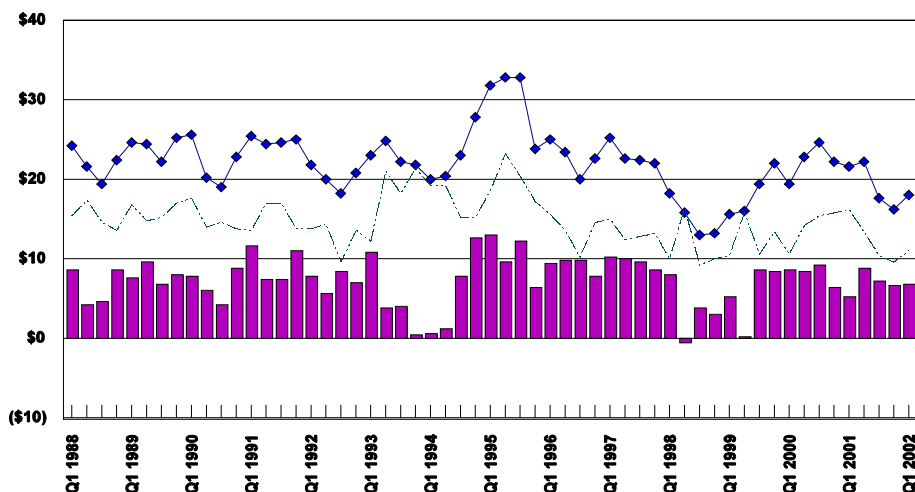
Monthly Weighted Averages Based on Shipping Line Monthly Mkt. Share



Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

◆ Rate - Gulf to Japan  
 --- Rate - PNW to Japan  
 ■ Spread - Gulf vs. PNW to Japan

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean  
Freight Rates

### Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	2002 1st Qtr	2001 1st Qtr	% Change		2002 1st Qtr	2001 1st Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$18.10	\$21.70	-16%	Japan	\$11.13	\$16.36	-31%
Mexico	\$31.49		-				
Venezuela		\$13.53	-				
N. Europe	\$10.67	\$15.19	-29%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$17.58	\$26.25	-33%	Med. Sea	\$17.85	\$22.14	-19%
Med. Sea	\$10.97	\$14.81	-25%	N. Europe	\$13.48	\$16.47	-18%
Black Sea	\$49.12		-	Japan	\$25.59	\$30.51	-16%

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA; (\*) rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs.=one metric ton)

### Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 5/25/02

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Gulf	Amsterdam	Grains	May 25/Jun 1	55,000	\$13.00
Gulf	Angola	Corn	Jun 5/20	27,500	\$57.75
Gulf	Sudan	Corn	May 25/Jun 5	12,000	\$59.00
Gulf	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Jul 5/15	56,000	\$19.50
Gulf	Korea	Heavy Grain	May 20/Jun 5	52,500	\$20.50
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	Jun 1/15	54,000	\$21.20
N. Pacific	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Jul 1/10	56,000	\$10.50
N. Pacific	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	Jun 15/30	56,000	\$11.25
River Plate	Portugal	Corn	May 20/30	25,000	\$17.50
River Plate	Spain	Heavy Grain	May 20/24	30,000	\$17.80

Source: Maritime Research Inc.; rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs.=one metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicated; op=option